GIANT-SIZE FINAL ISSUE!!!

MARVEL 100 .com

EXILES

There are realities outside our own; some similar, others abnormal. Sometimes these realities are damaged, and need some help. That's where we come in...

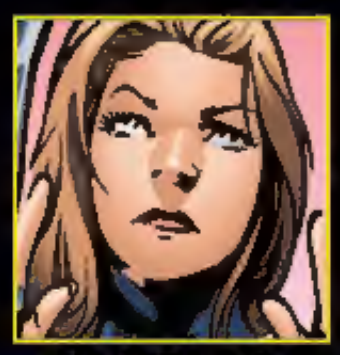
EXILES

Clarice Ferguson
Blink
EARTH - 295

Victor Creed
Sabretooth
EARTH - 295

Betsy Braddock
Psylocke
EARTH - 616

Kevin Sydney
Morph
EARTH - 1081



Cat Pryde
Shadowcat
NATIVE EARTH UNKNOWN

John Proudstar
Thunderbird
EARTH - 1100

TJ Wagner
Nocturne
EARTH - 2182

Name Unknown
Sage
EARTH - 616

Anna Raven
Rogue
EARTH - 1009

Raphael-Raven Darkholme
Mystiq
EARTH - 797

Things have never been exactly stable for the **Exiles**, but recently, the changes have been coming hard and fast. New members **Rogue** and **Mystiq** had just joined when the team met up with the Earth-616 team Excalibur to fight for the preservation of all reality (see the *X-Men: Die by the Sword* mini-series). Working together, the two teams defeated the combined threat of **James Jaspers**, the **Fury**, **Rouge-Mort**, and the immortal **Merlyn**. When all was said and done, Exile **Longshot** left the team to be with his lady-love, while Excalibur members **Nocturne** and **Sage** join our heroes in the **Crystal Palace**.

All the while, a mysterious but benevolent pair of seemingly all-powered entities has been watching the **Exiles**. Once the team defeated their foes, proving themselves worthy, the pair passed their duties on to the team, and **Psylocke** in particular. Just what are those duties? What does this mean for the **Exiles**? And with so many members, will they all choose to remain?

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HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS!

by
CHRIS CLAREMONT
and TOM GRUMMETT

SCOTT HANNA - Inker
WIL QUINTANA - Colorist
SIMON BOWLAND - Letterer
TOM GRUMMETT, TERRY PALLOT and WIL QUINTANA - Cover Artists
JORDAN D. WHITE - Assistant Editor
MARK PANICCIA - Senior Editor
JOE QUESADA - Editor in Chief
DAN BUCKLEY - Publisher

IN ALL THE DAYS OF **CLARICE FERGUSON'S** YOUNG LIFE, THERE ARE ONLY A LITERAL **HANDFUL** WHERE SHE CAN FIND IMAGES OF AN OCEAN **BEACH** WORTH VISITING IN HER **MEMORIES.**

OH SURE. THERE WERE BEACHES GALORE BACK **HOME**--

--BUT DECADES OF **GLOBAL WAR** HAD PRETTY MUCH **STRIPPED** THEM OF ANY DECENT POSSIBILITY OF **PLEASURE.**

IT WAS A **DELIGHTFUL** SURPRISE TO FIND ONE INSIDE THE **CRYSTAL PALACE** THE EXILES CALLED **HOME.**

IT EVEN HAS **WAVES** GOOD ENOUGH FOR **SURFING,** WHATEVER THAT IS.

MORPH PROMISED TO TEACH HER--HE NOT ONLY LOVES THAT SPORT, HE'S SURPRISINGLY **GOOD** AT IT--

--BUT SHE PREFERS TO ENJOY WHAT PASSES AROUND HERE FOR **SUN,** BASKING IN THE DELICIOUS WARMTH AND ENJOYING THE **VIEW.**

AND WHEN SHE RELAXES...

BLOOK

AAAAAAAH!

...OF COURSE, **THAT'S** WHEN THE MEMORIES COME.

IN RETROSPECT, SHE MUST HAVE MATERIALIZED IN ONE OF THE OTHER CHAMBERS OF THE PALACE--

--A **DESERT** SO HUGE, SHE QUITE NATURALLY ASSUMED SHE WAS ON SOME **PLANET.**

SHE WASN'T THE FIRST TO ARRIVE. **NOCTURNE** WAS ALREADY THERE.

I'M **TALIA JOSEPHINE WAGNER.**

TJ.

SIX MUTANTS FELL OUT OF THE SKY THAT MORNING, EACH FROM A DIFFERENT DIMENSION, EACH MORE OR LESS ALLIED WITH THAT WORLD'S VARIATION OF THE X-MEN.

CHARGED BY AN ENTITY WHO CALLED HIMSELF THE TIME-BROKER TO "FIX" FLAWS IN THE TEMPORAL STRUCTURE OF REALITY. BITS OF TIME ITSELF WERE BROKEN. THEY HAD TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

TROUBLE IS, THE TIME-BROKER DIDN'T TELL THEM THERE'D BE CASUALTIES.

THEY LOST MAGNUS ON THEIR FIRST MISSION.

HE WAS REPLACED BY MARIKO YASHIDA, A.K.A. SUNFIRE.

SHE DIED, TOO.

THEY CALLED THEMSELVES EXILES.

THEY WERE HEROES.

OVER THEIR YEARS TOGETHER, THEY SAVED MORE WORLDS THAN BLINK CAN EASILY REMEMBER.

AND PAID AS HEAVY A PRICE.

THE QUESTION BLINK FINDS HERSELF ASKING LATELY--MORE AND MORE OFTEN, IT SEEMS--

--IS WHERE DO THEY GO FROM HERE?

THERE ARE BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF DIMENSIONS.

WHEN DOES THEIR QUEST END?

KRUNCH

LEMME GUESS, *JOHNNY--*

--YOU *SLIPPED.*

EX*CUSE* ME?

AU CONTRAIRE, BOSS.

WHAT HAPPENED IS, *I* JUST KICKED HIS GLORIOUSLY GORGEOUS *ASS.*

STROKE GIRL *RULES!*

NOT FOR LONG, TALIA.

WANNA *BET?*

OH, *CRAP!*

THIS ISN'T *FAIR!*

I HAD YOU ON THE *ROPES!*

NOT SO LONG AGO, NOCTURNE SUFFERED A STROKE.

SHE'S MADE A SPECTACULAR RECOVERY.

BUT EVERY SO OFTEN HER BODY KEEPS REMINDING HER THAT SHE STILL HAS A WAYS TO GO.

YOU OKAY, TJ?

I AM SO ANGRY.

I MEAN, EVERYTHING WAS GOING JUST GREAT--

--AND THEN THIS STUPID LEG JUST FOLDED ON ME.

THAT'S THE NEW REALITY OF YOUR LIFE, TALIA.

PHOOEY!

IF YOU'RE DETERMINED TO PICK UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF AS A SUPER HERO...

...TRY FOLLOWING MY LEAD.

FOR NOW, KEEP ALL THE PHYSICAL EMPHASIS ON YOUR LEFT LEG.

MAKE IT YOUR FOUNDATION...

...WHILE YOU KEEP BUILDING THE CAPABILITIES OF YOUR RIGHT.

TJ ISN'T THE WOMAN SHE WAS.

WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, SHE MIGHT END UP BETTER.

SABRETOOTH, ON THE OTHER HAND, DETERMINED TO TRY HIS HAND AT SURFING...

...SEEMS TO BE HAVING FAR LESS LUCK.

BLINK HAS KNOWN SABRETOOTH PRETTY MUCH HER ENTIRE LIFE...

...BUT SHE'S NEVER HEARD HIM LAUGH LIKE THIS.

HAHAHA

HAHAHAHAHAHA

OR SEEN HIM SO CONSISTENTLY RELAXED AND HAPPY.

IT'S THE KIND OF THING COULD MAKE A BODY BELIEVE IN MIRACLES.

WOULD *MADAME* CARE FOR SOME *CANAPES*--

--FRESHLY PREPARED BY OUR NEW CHEF, M'SIER *MYSTIQ.*

MORPH?

WHATEVER HAVE YOU *DONE* TO YOURSELF?

WORD TO THE WISE--

--WATCH OUT WHEN YOU MAKE A *BET* WITH HIM. THAT GUY IS REALLY *SHARP.*

HE'S ONE *SUPERB* CHEF, THAT'S FOR SURE.

THIS IS *DELICIOUS.*

YOU *SURE* I'LL LIKE THIS?

JUST *TRY* IT, MR. CREED.

MYSTIQ'S BEEN MAKING *LUNCH,* YOU GUYS. HE SENT ME TO TELL YOU ALL IT'S *READY.*

CLARICE, YOU *OKAY?*

ANYTHING I CAN DO TO *HELP?*

PRETTY MUCH, YUP. PRETTY MUCH, NOPE. I'LL BE ALONG IN A BIT.

YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT *MIMIC,* AM I RIGHT?

I MISS HIM, TOO, Y'KNOW.

BUT *WE'RE* STILL HERE, CLARICE. OUR LIVES GO ON.

IF ONLY IT WERE THAT *SIMPLE.*

MY APOLOGIES FOR THE ***SELF-SERVICE.*** MY FRIENDS.

THE RAW MATERIALS OF OUR DINNER ARE COURTESY OF THE PALACE'S COMPUTER.

WHERE THEY COME FROM, I'M NOT SURE I REALLY WANT TO KNOW...

...BUT THEY TASTE ***DELICIOUS.***

THAT'S PUTTING IT ***MILDLY.***

THIS IS THE ***BEST*** BURGER I'VE EVER ***TASTED!***

TRY THE ***VEG!***

IT TASTES LIKE IT WAS JUST ***HARVESTED.***

THIS STEAK IS ***DELICIOUS.***

HA!

BACK ***HOME***--ON MINE AN' ***BLINK'S*** EARTH--FOOD LIKE THIS DOESN'T EVEN ***EXIST*** ANYMORE.

WE MADE DO ON WHATEVER WE COULD ***SCROUNGE.*** TASTE WAS ***NEVER*** AN ISSUE. JUST ***SURVIVAL.***

THAT MEAL WAS JUST *GREAT!*

AND WILL YOU JUST *LOOK* AT ALL THOSE *STARS--*

--ARE THEY NOT *LOVELY?*

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE *STARS,* MORPH--

AT LEAST, NOT THE WAY *YOU* MEAN.

THEY'RE *NOT?*

AT FIRST, THAT'S WHAT *I* THOUGHT THEY WERE. SAME AS YOU JUST DID.

I WAS *WRONG.*

I DON'T KNOW HOW--BUT I THINK EACH OF THOSE *LIGHTS* WE'VE BEEN ASSUMING WAS A STAR, JUST AS WE'D SEE FROM *EARTH...*

...I THINK THEY REPRESENT ENTIRE *DIMENSIONS.*

I THINK THAT'S A REPRESENTATION OF THE ENTIRE *OMNIVERSE.*

WE'RE LOOKING AT ALL *CREATION.*

HEY, ANYONE SEEN THE *KIDS*--OR FOR THAT MATTER, *SAGE?*

THEY SHOULDN'T MISS THIS FEAST--OR THE *VIEW.*

IT'S QUITE *STRANGE*--TO SEE PEOPLE WHO ARE GENETIC *TWINS* OF THE ONES I KNOW.

AND YET, THEY'RE COMPLETELY *DIFFERENT* PEOPLE.

THE JOYS AND WONDERS OF *CROSSTIME.*

*I HAVE A SOLID LOCK ON **ROGUE** AND **CAT** BUT ONLY A GENERAL LOCATION FOR **SAGE.***

*SOMEHOW, SHE'S **BLOCKING** ME.*

WE BETTER TELL *BLINK* AN' GO *FIND* 'EM.

I *ALREADY* KNOW, MR. CREED.

THE COMPUTER TOLD ME AT THE SAME TIME IT DID YOU.

LET'S *ROLL,* PEOPLE, AND COLLECT THE KIDS BEFORE ANYONE GETS *HURT.*

OR *WORSE.*

HER NAME IS CATHERINE PRYDE, CODE-NAME SHADOWCAT.

UP UNTIL TODAY, HER BASIC GOAL IN LIFE WAS TO FIND HER WAY HOME.

NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, SHE ISN'T SO SURE.

I'M INSIDE THE CRYSTAL PALACE, THAT IS A FACT.

SO HOW IS IT I FEEL LIKE I'M LOOKING AT THE WHOLE UNIVERSE?

THIS ONE'S NAME IS ROGUE.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS. IT'S ALL SHE WANTS.

I CAN'T SEE HER.

THE SILLY G.R.L.'S GONE TOO FAR.

WHAT'S *THAT?!*

YAUGH!

THE SILLY GIRL'S IN *TROUBLE.*

STOP *FIGHTING* ME, PRYDE, I'M HERE TO *HELP!*

SHE ISN'T LISTENING, SHE'S *PANICKED!*

I CAN'T GRAB *HOLD* OF HER!

BUT SOMEHOW--THIS *HARNESS* IS STILL ANCHORED TO HER.

THE WAY SHE'S *STRUGGLING,* THOUGH, SHE'S CERTAIN TO SNAP THE *CABLE.*

THAT WOULD *NOT* BE GOOD.

PLEASE--
HELP...ME!

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, DON'T'CHA KNOW?

JUST HOLD YOURSELF TOGETHER--IF YOU *CAN.*

WHILE I TAKE US BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED.

YOU--CAN *FLY?*

I CAN DO A *LOT* OF THINGS.

I JUST PREFER TO KEEP MY *SECRETS.*

COMPUTER, LOCK IN ON OUR POSITION

CAT AND *ROGUE* ARE GOING TO NEED *MEDICAL HELP!*

WHAT THE DEVIL WERE YOU TWO *DOING?*

EXPLORING OUR NEW *HOME.*

WE WEREN'T AWARE THAT WAS *FORBIDDEN.*

SAGE IS LOST.

SHE HAS NO IDEA WHERE SHE IS.

SHE CAN'T REMEMBER HOW SHE GOT HERE.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE SHE'S GOING.

SHE PUTS ONE FOOT AHEAD OF THE OTHER OUT OF HABIT.

AT THE MOMENT, SHE FEELS OVERWHELMED.

SHE HAS NO PERCEPTION OF THE WORLD BEYOND HER EYES...

...BECAUSE HER MIND IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING OVERWHELMED...

...BY THE FULL COMPLEMENT OF MEMORIES THROWN INTO SAGE'S BRAIN BY ROMA...

...AT THE MOMENT OF HER DEATH.

HELLO HELLO HELLO--

--WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

THESE ARE THE MEMORIES OF AN IMMORTAL GODDESS.

DON'T THINK THE LIKES OF YOU BELONG HERE.

THIS IS MY MIND!

IT'S YOU WHO'S THE INTRUDER.

AND I'LL FIGHT TO SEE YOU GONE.

SUCH *BRAVE* WORDS, SUCH *WARRIOR* SENTIMENTS.

SUCH A *WASTE.*

MY *DAUGHTER* MAY HAVE PASSED ON TO YOU *ALL* HER KNOWLEDGE...

...BUT *WHAT* MAKES YOU THINK YOU'LL *EVER* MASTER IT?

SHUT UP!

LISTEN TO YOURSELF

SHUT UP!

IS *THIS* THE SAGE WE ALL *REMEMBER?*

WHATEVER IT TAKES, I SWEAR I'LL FIND A WAY TO *WIN!*

ANYTHING *ELSE* TO SAY TO ME, *MONSTER?*

COME ONE, COME *ALL*--TAKE YOUR *BEST* SHOT--

--I'LL FIGHT AND I'LL *WIN.*

DON'T RECOGNIZE THE *BODY*...

...BUT THE *INTENT* SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

WE'RE *NOT* YOUR ENEMIES, SAGE

WE'RE *FRIENDS*, WE'RE TRYING TO HEYYY!

ACTION IS *GOOD*.

THE MORE PHYSICALLY *INVOLVED* I AM...

...THE MORE *CALM* MY MIND-- *OW!*

NOT NICE TO SLAM MY *SWEETY*.

THE OTHER ONE HAD SIZE AND RAW *STRENGTH*.

THIS ONE'S GOT *SPEED*.

MY *RIGHT LEG*--

--NOT NOW, PLEASE *NOT NOW!*

SOMETHING'S *WRONG* WITH THE MONSTER'S LEG

--IT'S GOING *DOWN*.

CAREFUL-- HERE COMES THE *OTHER* ONE IN ITS *DEFENSE!*

ADMIRABLE GESTURE--

--*LOUSY* TACTICS.

RUN!

AND *NOW* YOU-- *WHAT?!*

ANOTHER ONE?

NOT A PROBLEM

YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER *TARGET.*

I'LL TAKE *YOU* DOWN, TOO.

DONE *TALKING,* SAGE?

MY TURN.

FIGHT'S *OVER.*

YOU'RE *DONE.*

BLINK...

...CLARICE...

..HELP..

..MEEEE!

WELL, *TODAY* CERTAINLY HAD ITS MOMENTS.

D'YOU THINK IT'LL HAPPEN *AGAIN?*

YOU MEAN, WITH *SAGE?*

THAT'S PRETTY MUCH *MYSTIQ'S* CALL. HE'S TRAINED AS A *DOC.*

DO YOU *TRUST* HIM, MR. CREED?

DO YOU TRUST *ANY* OF THEM?

DO THEY TRUST *US?*

I FIGURE, WE'VE GOTTA START *SOMEWHERE.*

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, CLARICE, YOU DID REAL *GOOD* AGAINST SAGE.

HOORAY FOR ME.

WHAT'S THE WORD, *MYSTIQ*, HOW'S THE GIRL DOIN'?

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE PROBABLY BETTER

THAT FAMILIARITY FORMS THE *FOUNDATION* OF YOUR ANALYSIS.

YOUR FRIENDS, YOU *KNOW*.

AS FOR THE *REST* OF US, WE'RE ALL *STRANGERS*.

IN *ROGUE*, I SEE A VISION OF THE YOUNG WOMAN MY *DAUGHTER* WOULD HAVE GROWN INTO.

BUT SHE IS *NOT* MY DAUGHTER.

THE *LOOKS* SHE GIVES ME, THE *EMOTIONS* I SEE IN HER EYES, ARE NOT *LOVE*.

THEY'RE ALL RECOVERING NICELY.

CATHERINE TOOK THE WORST HITS, PHYSICALLY, SAGE, *EMOTIONALLY*.

WHAT ABOUT *SAGE*?

I'M AFRAID THAT'S THE QUESTION. NONE OF US ARE *TELEPATHS*.

WE CAN'T GET INSIDE HER *HEAD* TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AND HELP HER SET IT *RIGHT*.

TO ME, SHE'S LITERALLY AT WAR WITH *HERSELF*.

I SUPPOSE THE QUESTION FOR US *ALL* IS, WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT*?

GOT A MINUTE, CLARICE?

COME ON IN, YOU GUYS, MAKE YOURSELVES ***COMFORTABLE.***

I MIGHT EVEN HAVE A CHAIR IN HERE SOMEWHERE THAT'LL FIT ***YOU,*** JOHNNY.

JOHNNY AND I, WE'VE BEEN WORKING ***HARD*** TO GET ME BACK UP TO ***SPEED...***

...BUT IT JUST ISN'T ***WORKING,*** NOT THE WAY I ***HOPED.***

MY TIMING'S OFF, REFLEXES ARE OFF, BALANCE IS OFF--IT'S JUST A ***TAD,*** HERE AND THERE...

...BUT IN A ***FIGHT,*** AGAINST THE GUYS WE TACKLE, ***THAT'S*** THE DIFFERENCE GETS FOLKS ***KILLED.***

IF THAT WAS THE ***ONLY*** THING, IF I WAS ***SOLO,*** MAYBE I'D STICK IT OUT.

BUT ***JOHN*** AND I, WE'VE BEEN THINKING A ***LOT*** ABOUT OUR LIVES, WHERE WE WANT TO GO...

...***WHAT*** WE WANT TO ***DO.***

WE HAVE A LOT TO ***WORK THROUGH*** TOGETHER--

--NOT AS EXILES-- JUST AS ***PEOPLE.***

THEN YOU ***GO,*** GIRL.

BOTH OF YOU HAVE MORE THAN EARNED A ***HAPPY ENDING.***

IF ***THIS*** IS WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT YOU THINK IS ***BEST,*** THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL ***GET.***

JOHN AND TJ ARE TAKING A *SABBATICAL*--

--PARTLY TO CATCH UP ON ALL THE LOST TIME WHEN *JOHN* WAS OUT OF ACTION...

...PARTLY FOR TJ TO *BUILD* HER BODY BACK INTO THE *BEST* POSSIBLE SHAPE--

--BUT *MOSTLY,* TO FIGURE OUT *WHERE* THEY GO FROM HERE.

THEY'RE RELOCATING TO *HEATHER'S* DIMENSION, SO SHE CAN *MONITOR* THEIR PROGRESS...

...AND THEY CAN KEEP TABS ON HEATHER AND HER NEW *BABY.*

I'M GOING WITH THEM.

I'VE DECIDED THAT I NEED A *BREAK* MYSELF--

--TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I WANT AND WHERE *MY* FUTURE LIES.

BUT CLARICE, WHAT ABOUT THE *TEAM?*

THE *EXILES'LL* GO ON LIKE THEY DID BEFORE, MORPH. MAYBE EVEN *BETTER.*

CHANGE AND GROWTH ARE A PART OF LIFE...

...AND WE *ALL* OF US DESERVE A *HAPPY ENDING.*

AND--FOR THOSE WHO TAKE US FOR *GRANTED*--

--A *SURPRISE* LIKE THIS MIGHT DO 'EM SOME *GOOD.*

WE'VE GOT ADVERSARIES WHO THINK THEY *KNOW* US, I FIGURE THIS'LL THROW 'EM A *CURVE.*

YOU TAKE CARE, LITTLE GIRL.

JUST DON'T FORCE ME TO ***RUSH BACK*** TO SAVE YOUR BUTT.

NICE TALK. YOU USED TO SHOW ME A WHOLE LOT MORE ***RESPECT.***

I ***USED*** TO BE A ***LOT*** OF THINGS, MR. CREED.

YOU FELL IN LOVE ***ONCE,*** CLARICE.

THAT'S A WHOLE LOT ***MORE*** THAN MOST.

THIS ***SUCKS,*** CLARICE. I HOPE YOU ***KNOW*** THAT.

I WON'T ***ARGUE,*** MORPH, IF YOU'LL DO ME A ***FAVOR.***

YOU WANT ***COMPANY*** IN YOUR NEW LIFE?

TRUST ME, I'LL BE ***TOO BUSY.***

BUT DO ME ***ONE*** FAVOR?

ANYTHING, CLARICE, YOU KNOW THAT.

JUST KEEP YOUR EYES ON ***MR. CREED,*** WILL YOU?

I KNOW HE'S ***TOUGH*** YADA YADA BLAH BLAH BLAH, BUT I DON'T WANNA WAKE UP ONE DAY AND HAVE SOMEONE TELL ME--

--WELL, ***YOU*** KNOW.

YEAH, I KNOW.

YOU HAVE MY WORD, CLARICE. I'LL LOOK AFTER HIM.

YOU HAD THIS ***SAME*** CONVERSATION WITH HIM, DIDN'T YOU, ABOUT ***ME?***

PREP-WORK IS *OVER,* PEOPLE.

AS OF RIGHT NOW, *WE'RE* THE *EXILES.*

IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO TO *WORK--*

--AN' START *SAVIN'* THE *OMNIVERSE.*

THE BEGINNING.